

118

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	50X1
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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 26 May 1955

SUBJECT Morale, Benefits, and Restrictions in the Polish Army

NO. OF PAGES 4

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1. morale of the units as fair. However, the overall morale was not an important factor because the majority of troops were inductees and obeyed all orders in order to avoid extra duty assignments, punishment, and/or confinement.

Morale - Building Activities

2. unit commanders and political officers took an active interest in troop morale only prior to such holidays as Easter and Christmas, at which time the troops' morale to be at its lowest point. During these times, every effort possible was made by the unit commander and political officer in trying to keep the troops occupied in order to divert their thoughts from their families and to restrain them from attending church services and singing church hymns and/or Christmas carols.

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- 2 -

3. During these holidays, unit commanders and political officers constantly remained on duty and arranged various types of competitive sports between units, groups, and individuals. Winning units, groups, and individuals were usually awarded prizes such as books, shoes, and coupons which could later be exchanged for civilian clothing upon separation from the service. Entertaining films were shown at the caserne. Elaborate dinners including a ration of whiskey and/or beer were served to the troops. During these dinners, officers gave lengthy lectures of a political nature at the messhalls. despite these concerted efforts on the part of the unit commanders and political officers, the troops still felt melancholy or depressed by their lot.

50X1 Leaves and Passes

4. officers and career NCO's were authorized 30 days leave per year which could be taken at the desire of the individual except during October and November. During October and November, units began preparations for receiving recruits and began winter maintenance on all vehicles, tanks, and SP guns.

5. A very small number of inductees was given the maximum of seven days leave but only as a reward for outstanding marksmanship and/or excellent results on examinations. The examinations covered military subjects and were usually given to all troops and units during the spring and fall of each year by military inspecting commissions from the Ministry of National Defense. About 15 percent of the draftees received 10-hour passes on either Saturdays or Sundays.

50X1 Pay and Allowances

6. pay scales of all Polish officers and career NCO's were based upon the T/O positions they occupied. As an illustration, a lieutenant received the pay of a captain if he occupied the T/O position normally occupied by a captain. the following bachelor officers, providing they occupied T/O positions commensurate with their rank, received the following approximate pays.

Warrant Officer 950. zl.

Junior Lieutenant 965. zl.

Lieutenant 1060. zl.

Captain 1200. zl.

a major who was assigned duties as a regimental commander received about 1,800 zlotys per month.

7. married officers and career NCO's received extra monetary allowances for quarters and subsistence. The allowances were based upon the number of dependents and rank. Since February 1954, all bachelor officers and career NCO's have received an extra 10 zlotys per day as an allowance for food. All officers and career NCO's received an extra allowance while on temporary duty away from their parent units, but source could not state the amount paid.

Troop Messes

8. each regiment had one messhall which seemed to be quite adequate. However, it was not large enough to accommodate all the troops at one sitting; therefore, companies rotated and entered the messhall at short intervals.

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- 3 -

9. At the 41st Armd Arty Regt at Czarne, the troops used metal (believed to be aluminum) trays and porcelain cups. Civilian women were employed as cooks and mess attendants and were under the supervision of the food officer and several NCO's. Since he had not eaten in an EM messhall, source could not give any details on the food served to enlisted men except that it appeared to be palatable and sufficient in quantity.

Officers' Messes

10. Career NCO's were permitted to dine with the officers at the officers' casino. From observation, source knew that those NCO's who resided off-post with their families received an additional monetary allowance and that they paid for all meals taken at the casino.

11. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
50X1 All officers had to pay for their meals. [redacted] 4.50 zlotys for breakfast, 8.50 zlotys for dinner, and 3.50 zlotys for supper. 50X1

12. [redacted] a typical daily menu at the consolidated officers' mess as follows:

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Dinner</u>	<u>Supper</u>
Soup (macaroni or vegetable)	Soup (vegetable)	Liver or Sausage
Sausage	Potatoes	Potatoes
Fatback (pork fat)	Cutlet (beef or pork)	White bread
Coffee (wheat)	Tomatoes or cabbage	Fatback
White bread	Pickles	Coffee (wheat)
	Bread	
	Fruit compote	
	Cocoa	

13. The food was prepared by civilian women cooks and served by civilian female attendants. [redacted] meat and vegetables were drawn daily from a nearby military food supply warehouse. However, some casernes maintained additional livestock, such as pigs, which was eventually slaughtered and inspected by medical officers before being served to the officers and enlisted men. 50X1

14. [redacted] the officers' diet was far better than that served to EM. The officers received larger portions of food, and it was generally considered by all officers to be better prepared and tastier. Although the food was well prepared, [redacted] the amount of food furnished was insufficient on many occasions and that officers frequently bought additional food items from the military stores at the caserne. 50X1 50X1

Religious Policy

15. There were no regulations restricting Polish Army personnel from attending church services. However, unit political officers through political lectures, frequently attempted to discourage army personnel from attending religious services. Despite the efforts of the political officers, an unknown number of officers and EM attended religious services whenever the opportunity arose. However, when this attendance became known to the political officers and unit commanders, such personnel failed to receive pass privileges for at least three months and received additional duty assignments.

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4 -

Promotion Policy for Officers

16. Officers of source's acquaintance generally appeared to be satisfied with the present promotion policy. [redacted] within the armored branch of service, a warrant officer was normally promoted to junior lieutenant after being in grade for one year; from junior lieutenant to lieutenant after being in grade for two years; from lieutenant to captain after being in grade for three years; and from captain to major after being in grade for four years. Promotion policies applying to higher grades were not known [redacted]

17. [redacted] all promotions largely depended upon each individual officer's political behavior and his attitude towards political officers and the Communist Party. Officers who were Party members frequently advanced in grade much more rapidly than others. [redacted] several junior officers [redacted] were promoted to the next higher grade within a few months after their joining the Party without fulfilling the minimum time in grade requirements previously outlined.

Medical Facilities

18. [redacted] each Polish Army unit of regimental size or larger had either a dispensary or a hospital, depending upon the level of the unit. [redacted] the level of medical care in the Polish Army was adequate. Troops who were seriously ill were usually sent to district or corps hospitals for treatment which could not be provided at dispensaries. Source believed that officers received very good treatment at hospitals and undoubtedly fared much better than EM.

19. It was common knowledge among officers and EM that dental care was rather limited and very poor. [redacted] dentists usually extracted teeth rather than fill them. Consequently, soldiers visited the dentist only in cases of emergency.

Estimate of the Wartime Role of the Polish Army¹

20. [redacted] never heard any discussion as to the probable role of the Polish Army in the event of a conflict between the East and the West. [redacted] a sizeable Polish Army force would be assigned an attack or a defense mission in one sector of the front lines, that their combat attitude and behaviour would be closely supervised and observed by Soviet officers, and that they would be bracketed by Soviet units.

21. [redacted] because of its relatively small size, compared to the Soviet Army, the Polish Army would be integrated into the Soviet Forces at division level as an alternative possibility. Such a move would decrease the necessary logistical support involved and would also tend to prevent mass desertions and/or withdrawals.

22. As additional information, [redacted] Polish Army political officers state that "if the Soviet regime could rely on the armed forces of Poland and Czechoslovakia, Russia would free the Western nations from their imperialistic yoke".

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